

### Abstract of the Disclosure

#### Network Element with Redundant Switching Matrix

Network elements such as digital crossconnects are provided with a 1:1 redundancy of, among other things, the switching matrix in order to maintain their functionality in the event of a hardware failure. Against disasters such as fires, explosions, or floods in which all equipment in a room is destroyed, the redundancy used in prior-art network elements can afford no protection.

To remedy this, the two switching matrices (21, 22), which are present anyhow, are installed in separate rooms (31, 32), i.e., a single network element is divided between two rooms. To this end, the interface modules (23, 24) are divided into two groups, and each of the groups is assigned to a respective one of the switching matrices. A respective one of the switching matrices and a respective one of the groups of interface modules are arranged in, e.g., a cabinet or rack so as to form a unit, and the units are interconnected by simple internal links (34) such that both switching matrices (21, 22) are connected to all interface modules (23, 24).